

REMARKS

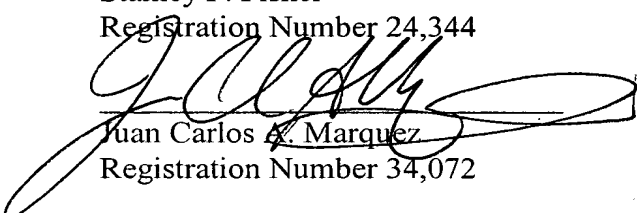
The above election along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 21, 2003. The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the substance of Group I: Claims 1-6 and 8-10 and to indicate the allowability of the claims.

Group I, as recited in claims 1-6 and 8-10 drawn to compositions hairpin ribozymes exhibiting a complex structure with an oligonucleotide of formula I or II (Class 536/24.5) is being elected for this application. The non-elected groups and claims are withdrawn from further prosecution without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby reserve the right to file divisional applications on any or all of the non-elected claims.

Substantive consideration of the elected claims is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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SPF/JCM/JT